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54

BOROUGH    OF    MALDON.

ANNUAL    REPORT

OF    THE

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. LESLIE R. PHILIP,  
M.B., Ch.B.,

including the

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. A. IRVING, D.P.A., M.R.San.I.

for the year

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1947.

The Worshipful the Mayor  
(Alderman S.G. Deed, J.P.)

Chairman: Alderman C.C. Cowell.

Deputy Chairman: Councillor J.J. Oliver.

Alderman Dines.

Councillors: Bonner.  
Brewster  
Free.  
Gibbins.  
Scott.  
Wallis.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH.

Town Clerk: Charles H. Cloughton.

Acting Medical  
Officer of Health : J. Leslie R. Philip, M.B., Ch.B.,  
(Also engaged in private practice)

Sanitary Inspector: F.A. Irving, D.P.A(Lond)., M.R.San.I.,  
M.S.I.A.,  
Qualified Sanitary Inspector.  
Qualified Inspector of Meat & Foods.  
Royal Sanitary Institute Diploma in  
Sanitary Science as applied to buildings  
and Public Works.  
Qualified Housing Manager.

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BOROUGH OF MALDON.  
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To the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of  
the Borough of Maldon.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present  
my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of  
the Borough for the year 1947, in the form prescribed by the  
Minister of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS. The Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 of  
the population are given below:

	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>
<u>Birth Rate.</u>	21.7	19.8	17.1	19.8	14.6
<u>Death Rate.</u>	12.6	12.8	11.7	13.8	14.0

It has not been possible for the Registrar General  
to give a "Comparability Factor" to enable comparison to be  
made between local death rates.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>
Notifications	200	227	434	166	76
Deaths from	5	5	1	3	7

There have been mild epidemics of Chickenpox and  
Measles during the year, but no cases of Poliomyelitis or  
Diphtheria. The absence of diphtheria is undoubtedly due  
to the effectiveness of the immunisation which has been  
carried out.





ISOLATION HOSPITAL. The Maldon Joint Hospital Board's Hospital at Heybridge has continued to meet the needs of the area, despite difficulties in regard to staffing.

SCABIES. A few cases have been reported, but the incidence is on the decline.

VENEREAL DISEASES. There has not been any increase in the number of cases of venereal disease coming to the notice of the local medical practitioners.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION. In presenting this report it is felt that reference should be made to the great changes which are taking place (or are likely to take place) in Local Government in connection with both boundaries and functions.

The present trend (economic factors apart) appears to be towards the reversion of Local Government to its original function, namely, District Councils as Public Health Authorities responsible for the environmental hygiene including the housing and recreational requirements of their respective areas.

It is upon these grounds that I wish to stress the importance of these functions and the continued and increasing importance of your Public Health Department in their execution. In considering this question it should be borne in mind that (i) the Public now expect more, and there are new problems to be faced on this account, and (ii) modern legislative and scientific trends have been to extend the scope and functions of your health officers into realms not previously contemplated

I wish to thank the Council for the help given to me during the year and to acknowledge the assistance given to me by the officers of your Council. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. F.A. Irving, the Sanitary Inspector, in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. Leslie R. Philip.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.





# REPORT

of the

Acting Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1947.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: Land (acres) as extended 1st April, 1934.....5946  
 Inland water..... 13  
 Tidal Water..... 120  
 Foreshore..... 566

Total.....6645

Population (Census 1931, Original Borough).....6559  
 R.G. Estimate, 1947 - Extended Borough....9438

Number of Inhabited houses (End of 1947).....2878

Rateable Value.....£53,196

Sum represented by a Penny Rate..... £206

Social Conditions: The Chief Industries of the town are engineering, timber yards and flour milling. There is also a small amount of fishing and some agriculture.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births	(Legitimate	203	107	96	) Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population... 21.7
	(Illegitimate	2	1	1	
	(Total	205	108	97	
Still Births	(Legitimate	2	1	1	) Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ... 14.4
	(Illegitimate	1	1	-	
	(Total	3	2	1	
Deaths		119	61	58	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population... 12.6



Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

Number of Deaths under one year of age.....	3
All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	14.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	14.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	Nil

Deaths Classified by Age.

Age.	Number in district.	Outward transfers.	Inward transfers.	No. which apply to district
Under 1 year	3	1	1	3
1 and under 2	2	-	-	2
2 " " 5	-	-	-	-
5 " " 15	2	-	-	2
15 " " 25	-	-	-	-
25 " " 35	2	-	2	4
35 " " 45	4	1	-	3
45 " " 55	8	5	2	5
55 " " 65	14	4	6	16
65 " " 75	41	17	8	32
75 and upwards	96	47	5	54
TOTALS	172	75	24	121 <sup>x</sup>

<sup>x</sup>

This is 2 more than in R.G's Returns.



Deaths Classified by Cause and Sex.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	1	3	4
Influenza ...	-	-	-
Cancer of Buc: cav: & oesoph(M); uterus(F)	2	-	2
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum ...	-	2	2
Cancer of Breast ...	-	1	1
Cancer of all other sites ...	3	6	9
Diabetes ...	1	2	3
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	4	11	15
Heart Disease ...	28	23	51
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	-	2
Bronchitis ...	6	1	7
Pneumonia ...	3	2	5
Other Respiratory Diseases...	1	-	1
Other digestive diseases ...	0	2	2
Nephritis ...	1	1	2
Premature birth ...	1	-	1
Congenital malformations, birth injuries or infantile diseases ...	-	1	1
Puer. & Post abort. Sepsis...	-	1	1
Syphilitic Disease ...	1	-	1
Suicide ...	1	-	1
Other violent causes...	4	-	4
All other causes ...	2	2	4
Totals ...	61	58	119

General provision of Health Services for the Area.

- (i) Ambulance Facilities. The Corporation provide one ambulance for medical, surgical and accident cases. An ambulance is provided by the Maldon Joint Hospital Board for the removal of patients suffering from infectious diseases.
- (ii) Hospitals. (a) Infectious Diseases: Cases of infectious disease are received and treated in the Isolation Hospital at Heybridge, Maldon, by arrangement with the Maldon Joint Hospital Board.
- This hospital comprises an administrative block, ward blocks with 28 beds, a laundry and disinfecting block.
- Consulting Surgeon - R.Reid, Esq., F.R.C.S.  
Consulting Physician - F.E. Camps, Esq., M.D.  
F.R.C.P.





- (ii) Hospitals (b) Smallpox: Arrangements have been made  
(Contd) with the County Council for the treatment of patients suffering from smallpox.
- (iii) Tuberculosis. The County Council provide a number of sanatoria throughout the County. The Tuberculosis Dispensary at Maldon is situated in the Combined Treatment Centre in Wantz Chase, Maldon, where sessions are held on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month at 10.0 a.m.
- (iv) Maternity and Child Welfare. The County Council is the responsible authority for these services and full use can be made of the facilities offered through the County Scheme. Adequate provision for hospital treatment and specialists' services are similarly available where necessary.

Various clinics in the above connection are provided at the Combined Treatment Centre, Wantz Chase, Maldon, where sessions are held as follows:-

Womens Welfare	1st Monday in each month at 2.0 p.m.
Child Welfare Clinic	Fridays at 2.0 p.m.
Ante Natal Clinic	Every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m.
Minor Ailments Clinic	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10.0 a.m.
Dental Clinic	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, by appointment.
Eye Clinic	Wednesdays at 10.0 a.m. by appointment.
Orthopaedic Clinic	When necessary.



Diphtheria Immunisation

3rd Friday in each month  
at 10.0 a.m., Wantz Road  
Clinic.

2nd Tuesday in each month  
at 3.0 p.m., Heybridge  
Clinic.

There are three district nurse midwives practising in the area. Besides their midwifery duties, they carry out a good deal of general nursing in the homes of patients. Thus the Nursing Association plays an important part in the health services in the district.

There is one private nursing home in the town, which is registered by the Essex County Council.

- (v) School Children. The County Council is the Education Authority for both secondary and elementary schools in the Borough. Minor ailments, Orthopaedic, After-Treatment, Dental and Eye Clinics for school children are arranged by the County Council at the Combined Treatment Centre, Wantz Chase, Maldon.
- (vi) Venereal Diseases. Under the County Scheme facilities exist for diagnosis and treatment in Chelmsford, Colchester and Southend.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.

The Borough, with the exception of a few outlying houses, is served by a piped water supply which is in the hands of the Corporation.

The water is supplied from two deep wells, but owing to the insufficient yield the supply is inadequate (800,000 gallons per week) and is supplemented by an average of 800,000 gallons per week taken from the mains of the Southend Water Company. The maximum consumption of water during the year was 1,850,000 gallons per week.

Routine chemical and bacteriological examination of the water from the Wantz Road and Spital Road wells have been carried out, and samples have also been taken from the supply mains. Typical reports on these samples are given below:-

A. Wantz Road Well.

"ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received on 7.1.47  
from BOROUGH OF MALDON per Essex County Council  
Labelled Tap on pumping main, Wantz Road Pumping Station  
Water direct from bore-untreated Date 6.1.47, 3.0pm  
Taken by: F.A. Irving. Witness: - Signed: F.A. Irving.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance Bright with few particles of mineral debris.

Colour (Hazen) .....	Nil	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ..	Less than 5
Reaction pH ..	On the alkaline side	Odour .....	Nil
Electric Conductivity at 20° C .....	8.1	Free Carbon Dioxide .....	7
Chlorine in Chlorides .....	490	Total Solids, dried at 180° C .....	1470
Hardness: Total ..	50	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ..	375
	Carbonate (Temporary) ..	Non-carbonate ..	0
		(Permanent)	
Nitrogen in Nitrates .....	0.4	Nitrogen in Nitrites .. approx:	0.1
Free Ammonia .....	0.79	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C .....	0.30
Albuminoid Ammonia .....	0.000	Free Chlorine Reaction .....	-
Metals... Iron: Less than 0.03		Other metals absent.	







# BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove free chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling)

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	{	1 day at 37° C.	2 days at 37° C.	3 days at 20° C.
		0	0	-

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in	-	Absent from	100 ml.
Bact. coli.	Present in	-	Absent from	100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in	-	Absent from	-

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, Its reaction is on the alkaline side of neutrality and it is free from metals apart from an insignificant trace of iron. The water is soft in character but its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution although high is not excessive. The water is of very satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

17th January, 1947."

## B. Spital Road Well.

"ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received on 7.1.47.  
from BOROUGH OF MALDON per Essex County Council  
Labelled Tap in Waterworks House, Spital Road, close to  
"up" pumping main - chlorinated. Bact. label  
states: but very short contact period.  
Date 6.1.47. 2.30 pm  
Taken by: F.A. Irving      Witness: -      Signed: F.A. Irving.

# CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance	Clear and bright	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH..	On the alkaline side of Neutrality: 8.2	Free Carbon Dioxide	4
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	1800	Total Solids, dried at 180° C.	1200
Chlorine in Chlorides	360	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	390
Hardness: Total	40.. Carbonate (Temporary)	40.. Non-carbonate (Permanent)	0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.0	Nitrogen in Nitrites	approx 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.80	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C.	0.30
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Free Chlorine Reaction	0.1
Metals    Iron: Less than	0.03	Other metals	absent



BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove free chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling)

	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
Number of Colonies (developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in (	0	0	-

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in	-	Absent from 100 ml.
-------------------------------	------------	---	---------------------

Bact.coli.	Present in	-	Absent from 100 ml.
------------	------------	---	---------------------

Cl.welchii Reaction	Present in	-	Absent from -
---------------------	------------	---	---------------

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance. Its reaction is on the alkaline side of neutrality and it is free from metals apart from an insignificant trace of iron. The water is soft in character but its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution although high is not excessive. The water is of very satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

17th January, 1947."

C. Heybridge Basin Standpipe.

"REPORT ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER. received 12.6.47. from BOROUGH OF MALDON per Essex County Council Labelled Standpipe on mains at Heybridge Basin (at No. 7 Lock Hill, Heybridge Basin) Mixed supply derived from Wantz Road & Spital Road Pumping Stations. Augmented by a supply from the mains of Southend W.Co., All supplies are chlorinated. Date.. 11.6.47. 12.30 p.m.

Taken by: F.A. Irving. Witness: - Signed: F.A.Irving.

	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
Number of Colonies (developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in (	0	1	-

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in	-	Absent from 100 ml.
-------------------------------	------------	---	---------------------

Bact. coli.	Present in	-	Absent from 100 ml.
-------------	------------	---	---------------------

Cl.welchii Reaction	Present in	-	Absent from -
---------------------	------------	---	---------------

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of a high standard of bacterial purity indicative of a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

17th June, 1947."





Slight abnormalities which were noted in some of the reports on the Wantz Road and Spital Road supplies during the year appear to have been remedied by minor adjustments to the chlorinator return pipes.

The water is chlorinated and daily records are maintained of the operation of the chlorination plants.

The question of the improvement of the arrangements for the chlorination of the water and of steps to reduce the fluorine content of the water (by improved mixing with the water from the Southend Water Company's Mains) should be borne in mind as should the possibility of increased demands for water which may follow upon an improved sewerage scheme.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A scheme for the improvement of the main drainage and disposal of sewage has been lodged with the Minister of Health. It is to be emphasised that the need for these improvements is steadily increasing with the erection of additional houses. The increased consumption of water (from approximately 1,200,000 gallons per week in 1938 to 1,600,000 gallons per week at present) is reflected in the increased quantity of untreated sewage and foul waste water which is being discharged into the river.

## 3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The rivers and streams repeat the story of the unsatisfactory drainage and sewerage of the Borough.

On every hand, throughout the Borough, there are sewers and drains discharging untreated sewage into the Rivers Chelmer and Blackwater and Heybridge Creek.

Suffice it to say that samples taken from the river have shown it to be heavily polluted.

## 4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A very large proportion, practically one quarter, of the town is dealt with under the conservancy system. This is yet another urgent reason for carrying out the improved sewerage scheme. There are now 752 pail closets, 16 earth closets and 165 cesspools in the area. W.C's are connected to 59 of the cesspools and a number of W.C's appear to be piped to open ditches. Many of the cesspools are cesspools in name only and are of too small a capacity; leak into the sub-soil or adjacent ditches or are pumped out by the tenants themselves on to their gardens.





## 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The emptying of pail closets is carried out departmentally by means of a motor vehicle. The vehicle is a Dennis Freighter, of 11 cubic yards capacity, low loading, end tipping and petrol driven, with a removeable metal container for the reception of the contents of night soil pails. Nightsoil is collected from parts of the Borough twice weekly and disposed of by tipping into the main sewer outfall, which discharges the material in a crude condition into the river.

House refuse is collected from domestic premises once per week and is disposed of by tipping. A close watch has been kept on the tip in order to keep down rat infestation and insect pests.

The suitability of the present site of the tip, adjacent to the Promenade, is open to question, and the provision of a more hygienic method of refuse disposal should be considered.

## 6. HOUSING.

The following figures show the trend of the average number of persons per house in the Borough over a period of years:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average number of Persons per House.</u>	
1901	4.28)	Statistics refer to unextended Borough (Pre 1934).
1911	4.35)	
1926	4.06)	
1936	3.32	
1946	3.29	
1947	3.28	

It would appear that in so far as average persons per house are concerned, the increase in the population of the Borough during the year (from 9,290 to 9,438) has almost offset the effect of the 58 new units of accommodation which have been occupied during the year.

Attention was drawn last year to the need for a careful review of the housing situation and it is noted that the need for a review of housing needs on a nation wide basis is now being advocated in many quarters. It is evident that in the long run it will be the economic attraction of the district coupled with the numbers of "family units" and "housing units" which will ultimately determine the number of houses required in the area.



During the year three individual unfit houses have been demolished and the Black Cottages (Heybridge) Clearance Order, 1939, has been confirmed by the Minister of Health after re-opening the Inquiry. This Clearance Order is for the demolition of 8 houses as soon as the occupants can be re-housed. There are in addition 14 other condemned houses which require to be demolished of which at the end of 1947 13 were still occupied.

There are some 150 houses in the area which are unfit and should be demolished as soon as conditions permit, together with considerable numbers of substandard houses which require renovating or improving in various degrees. During the year attention has again been given to maintaining houses in a wind and weatherproof condition but it is to be noted that in many cases the limit of patching has been reached.

#### 7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Corporation owns a large open air salt water swimming pool of about 2½ million gallons capacity. This pool is situated alongside the river estuary into which it is emptied at low tide and refilled on the flood, as necessary. Samples of water taken from this swimming pool have given rise to grave doubts as to the hygienic condition of the pool and at the time of writing it has been necessary to make strong representations in this respect. The following is a summary of the results on the samples mentioned:-

4 Samples from Lake        ——— 2 Unsatisfactory.

7 Samples from Lake Inlet  
and adjacent river        ——— All polluted.

#### 8. SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools in the district are as satisfactory as circumstances permit.

Contacts of infectious disease are excluded from school. No closure of schools on account of infectious illness has been required.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Anti-toxin for the use of suspected cases of diphtheria is available to the Medical Practitioners within the Borough upon application at the Municipal Offices or the Isolation Hospital.

School notifications of suspected infectious disease or of contacts are regularly received.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified:

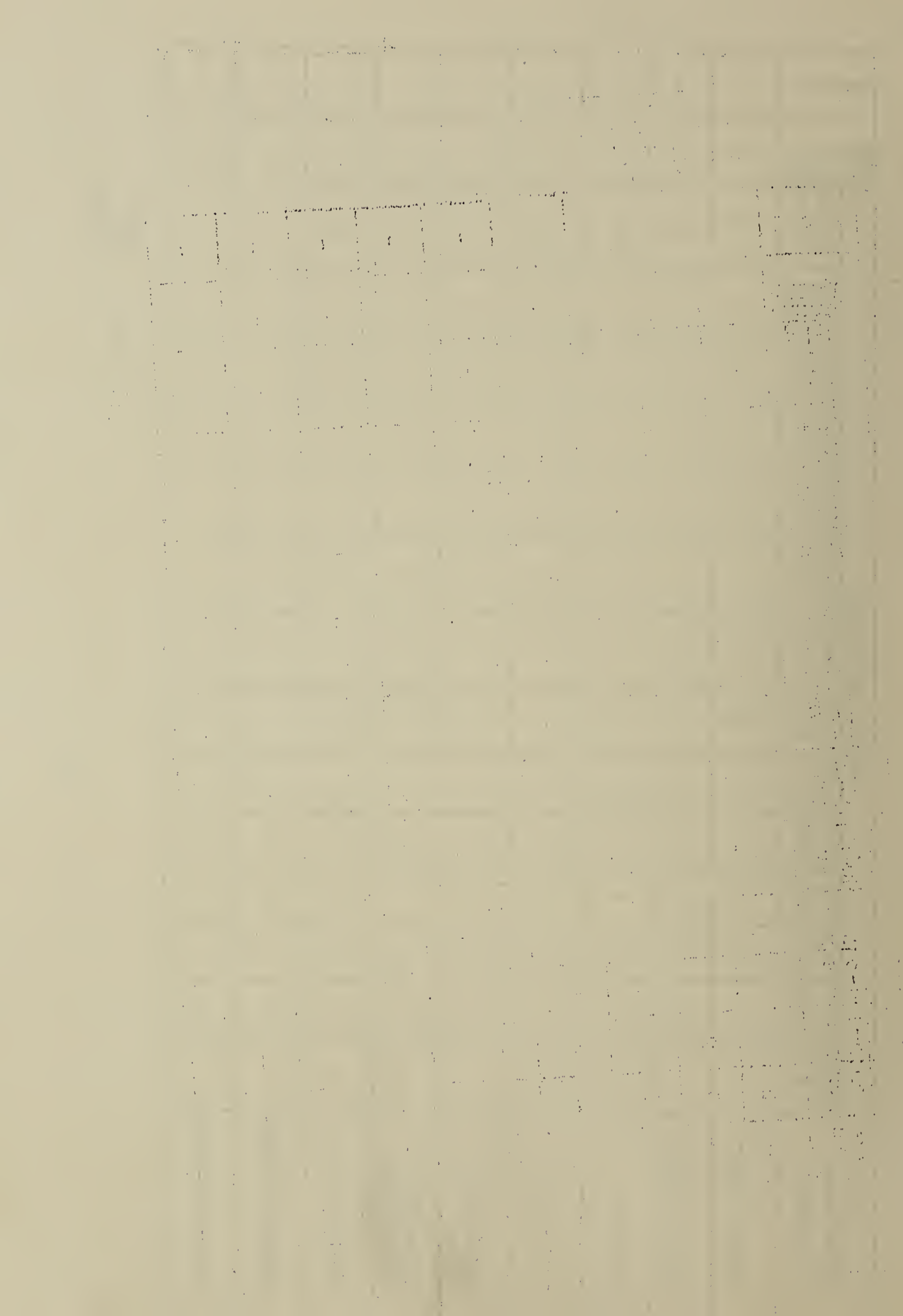




**NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1947.**

Infectious Disease	CASES NOTIFIED													Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	
	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5-10 yrs	10-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	20-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45-65 yrs	65 & over	Age not known			At all ages
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	-
Whooping Cough	1	3	3	2	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-
Measles	3	6	3	5	5	29	3	1	3	-	-	-	-	58	4	-
Pneumonia	2	1	-	2	1	3	1	-	1	3	2	5	-	21	-	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	2	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Chicken Pox	4	7	6	4	8	41	15	3	5	-	-	-	-	93	-	-
Malaria (Relapse)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Total = 200





## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The immunisation against diphtheria of children in this area has been continued, but the figures for the year for children under 5 years of age are rather disappointing. Although the figures for the over fives are satisfactory, very few of these children have also received the booster dose which it is recommended they be given. The ascertainable figures for the year show the number of children immunised to be as follows:-

	Age under 5 years.	Age 5 years and over, but under 15 yrs.	Total.
(a) Number of children who completed full course of immunisation in the area during 1947.	82	4	86

	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>Between 5 and 15.</u>
(b) Approximate estimated number of children in the area at mid 1947	794	1,220
(c) Percentage of the child population shown under above considered to be immunised at 31st December, 1947.	52%	95%

The dates and times of Immunisation Sessions at Clinics are:-

Wantz Road Clinic: 3rd Friday in each month  
at 10.0 a.m.

Heybridge Clinic: 2nd Tuesday in each month  
at 3.0 p.m.

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been found necessary for the prevention or treatment of blindness.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

No action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, has been necessary.

A summary showing the new cases of, and mortality from tuberculosis during 1947, is as follows:-



TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases of, and Mortality from Tuberculosis  
During 1947.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	1*	1	1*	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 — 65	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals.	9	1	3	—	1	3	—	—

\* Old cases but notified for first time during 1947.



REPORT ON THE  
SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA  
BY F.A.IRVING, D.P.A., M.R.San.I.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is a report and summary of the work which I have carried out during the year:-

This is the first report dealing with a full year's work since I have been in the service of your Council and in submitting it I feel that there are a few matters consideration of which may help to improve the sanitation of the Borough, which is so generally desired.

It has been found that locally, the term "good sanitation" is synonymous with the absence of drains and the need for the execution of the long delayed sewerage disposal scheme. It is suggested that this is an over simplification of the problems which require to be solved, since it is to be emphasised that good sanitation includes all aspects of environmental hygiene, including good housing, clean houses and factories, clean and safe food and water supplies, all of which are directed to the prevention of disease and the promotion of good health.

Similarly, it appears to be considered that the sole function of your Sanitary Inspector is to deal with complaints regarding nuisances which may arise. It is suggested that this again is an over simplification and I feel that I should draw attention to the fact that your Sanitary Inspector is intimately concerned with all the practical aspects of environmental hygiene is which he is, or should be, one of the officers available to the Council for advice on such matters. The prevention of nuisances and insanitary conditions is equally or more important than the abatement of existing insanitary conditions, especially so since prevention is invariably cheaper than abatement.

Conditions within the Borough are described elsewhere in this report, and in considering how the present state of affairs has come about it is desired to draw attention to the dual nature of "good sanitation" in so far as the methods by which it may be obtained are concerned. It is desired to stress that good sanitation is largely evolutionary in character and that frequently extensive and costly schemes are in fact only correctives of unsatisfactory evolutionary development. In this connection it is for consideration whether it may not be advisable to review the Council's policy with a view to endeavouring to give greater weight to the encouragement of desirable development.





A considerable part of my time has been devoted to abating conditions which should never have been permitted or which should have been abolished. Much time and trouble have been expended in dealing with tangles of ancient drains - the locations of which are uncertain and unrecorded and the construction of which leave much to be desired. As far as possible, every opportunity is taken to record the locations of these drains and sewers, on sketch plans, for future reference. This work illustrates the economy which is effected in the long run by the careful planning, construction, inspection and recording of such works.

There is a surprising lack of knowledge of the principles of sewage purification and of the nature and quality of septic tank effluents and no further overflows from septic tanks should be permitted to discharge into ditches as such effluents are only likely to cause pollution and nuisances. It is suggested that the approval of plans of two or more houses draining to a common cesspool or other tank be avoided in the future since the cleansing thereof tends to give rise to disputes between tenants and landlords.

Very many of the old houses in the town have defective floors, due to dry rot. This is wasteful of labour and materials since by a strict insistence upon the proper precautionary measures much recurrent expense would be obviated. It is felt that it would be advantageous to property owners if they were more insistent upon all the proper precautions being carried out.

A few of the older timber framed houses have been noted to be infested with the death watch beetle and it seems possible that this insect pest is more prevalent than is generally realised. Quite an appreciable amount of damage to property and furniture is also noted to have been caused by the furniture beetle with whose appearance and life cycle few persons are familiar.

It is believed that a more careful application of recent scientific building research would in many instances enable better results to be obtained without any increase in costs.

Such repairs of houses as have been officially secured have been carried out under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Proceedings were necessary in one case only where as a result the owner of the property was fined £5 and costs upon two occasions before he carried out the work required. Under prevailing conditions it has been necessary to limit requirements to essentials. The position as regards repairs to small dwellings remains very acute.



With regard to ice cream, which has come to the fore as a Public Health matter in recent years, whilst as much as possible has been done to safeguard the public, it is felt that they would do much to safeguard both themselves and their children by purchasing ice cream from only reputable premises which display the name and address (or reputable Brand Name) of the manufacturer of the ice cream. There are many reputable manufacturers who take every precaution to ensure the good quality of their products and the good name of these firms is a valuable safeguard to the public. Therefore though not a legal requirement, the display of the manufacturer's name is an act of indisputable good faith.

There is a need for improvement in the hygiene of food handling.

It is regretted that, without the assistance for which I have asked, and on account of prevailing conditions, it has not been possible for me to take more positive action in respect of many of the matters which require attention.

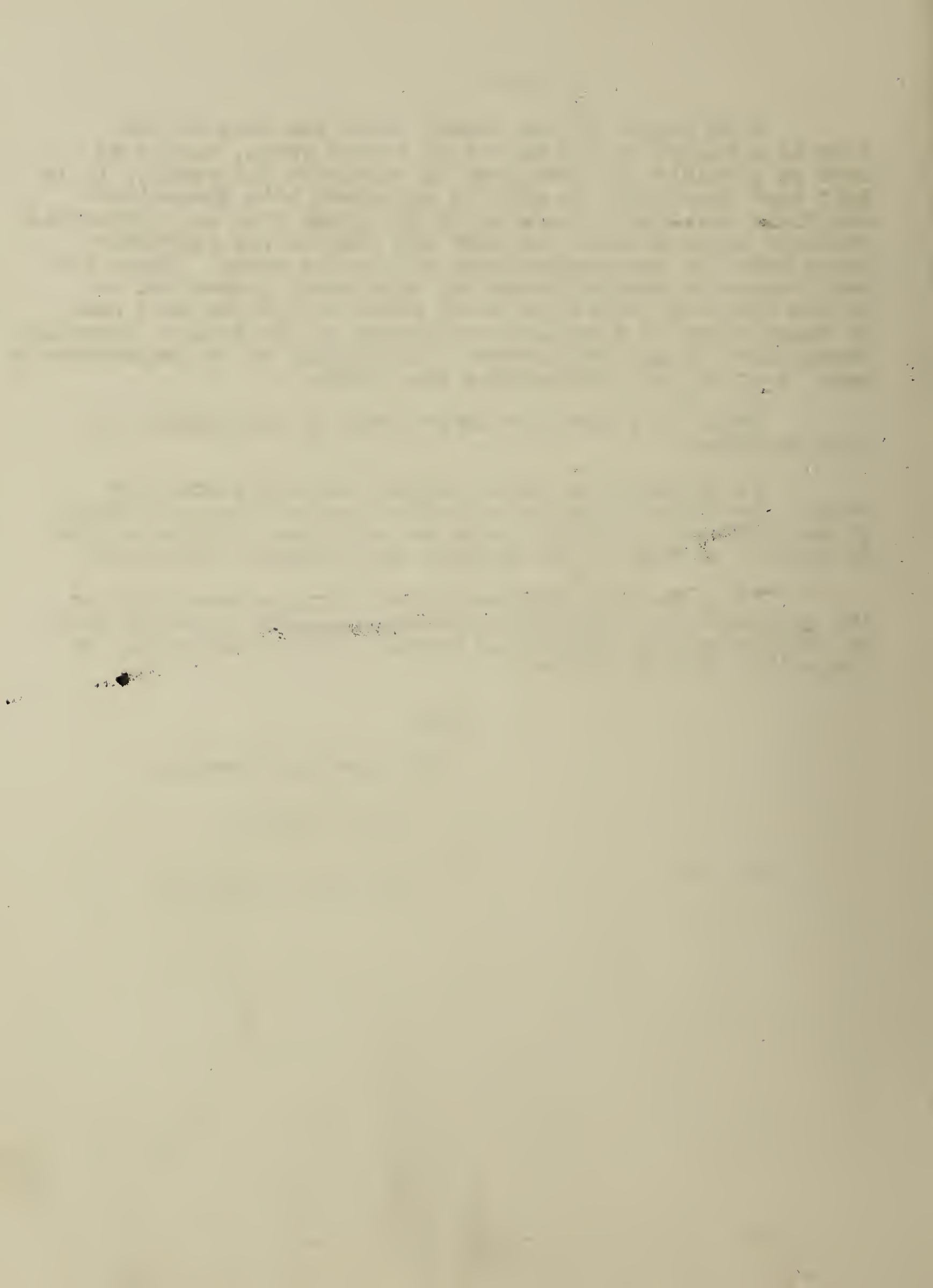
It is desired to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation, assistance and encouragement given to me by Dr. J.L.R. Philip, the Acting Medical Officer of Health, in connection with my duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. A. IRVING,

Sanitary Inspector.





# SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

## 1. Inspections.

## Notices.

Nature.	No.	Infor- mal.	For- mal.	Total complied with.	Outstanding at end of year. Infor- mal.	For- mal.
Houses Inspected						
Re Overcrowding.....	12	—	—	—	—	—
Re Dirty Conditions and Vermin.....	39	—	—	—	—	—
Re Structural Defects and Nuisances....	153	91	32	90	11	—
Re-inspections in con- nection with above	400	—	—	—	—	—
House Drainage(all forms)	65	—	—	—	—	—
Water supply.....	39	—	—	—	—	—
Food Shops (all kinds).	245	1	—	1	—	—
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops.....	35	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses.....	31	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	9	2	—	2	—	—
Factories.....	147	1	—	1	—	—
Rats, Mice and Insect Pests.....	25	—	—	—	—	—
Camping Grounds.....	14	2	2	2	—	—
Disinfections.....	7	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Inquiries.....	14	—	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances.....	11	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous (Warning Notices).....	—	110	—	—	—	—
Total.....	1266	207	34	96	11	0

## 2. SHOPS.

No formal action under the Shops Acts has been taken as it seems advisable not to divert building labour from housing repairs.

## 3. CAMPING GROUNDS.

The summer season has seen renewed activity at the camping grounds in the district at Mill Beach and Osea Road. The sanitary accommodation and development of these camping grounds is a matter for concern and it has been necessary to make representations to the site owners.

The Council have adopted Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and a comprehensive schedule of conditions has been drawn up for application in the licensing of Camping Sites.



#### 4. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Several factory chimneys are noted to be causing intermittent atmospheric pollution and although no action has been taken, the position is kept under review.

#### 5. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The use of the one Common Lodging House in the town has now been discontinued.

#### 6. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- (a) Number of Council Houses found to be infested... 0
- Number of Other Houses found to be infested..... 21
- Number of Houses Disinfested..... 21

All these premises were disinfested without the service of any notices.

- (b) Disinfestation is carried out by means of an insecticide containing 5% D.D.T. (Manufactured by Messrs. Cooper, McDougall & Robertson, Ltd) together with an insect powder containing 10% D.D.T. Normally the liquid insecticide is applied by means of a spray to the walls, floor and ceiling in each bedroom; to the bedsteads, mattresses and to the walls and ceiling of the staircase. In addition, mattresses and any upholstered furniture are impregnated with the 10% D.D.T. insect powder, by means of a hand blower. The materials used are not offensive and the rooms treated are re-occupied after a short period of airing, thus avoiding the difficulty of finding the tenant the alternative accommodation necessary when disinfestation is carried out by Hydrogen Cyanide.

- (c) Houses of prospective Council House tenants are inspected for the presence of bedbugs.

- (d) The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, free of charge.

- (e) Measures taken to prevent re-infestation of houses include instruction by the Sanitary Inspector and periodic re-visits. The most effective measure against re-infestation lies in the technique of disinfestation applied which in itself has proved capable of preventing re-infestation for long periods. Careful examinations of houses disinfested have not brought to light any case where disinfestation has been unsuccessful or where re-infestation has occurred during the year.

#### 7. CONTROL OF OTHER INSECT PESTS.

Preparations containing D.D.T., or Gammexane have been used in dealing with Flies, Cockroaches, Crickets, Wasps and Ants.





8. RODENT CONTROL.

The sewers in the Borough have been treated for the destruction of rats twice during the year. Infestation usually appears to occur in the parts of the sewers which connect directly with the river. The tip has been treated at intervals in order to keep the rat population down. The Council have one trained operative who works on the tip.

A few minor infestations of rats have been reported and dealt with, but I cannot help feeling that if any of the people who complain were to exercise greater care in the disposal of discarded food waste, they would have less cause for complaint. Incidentally, although assistance and advice is given, it is still the responsibility of the owner or occupier to maintain his premises free from rats.

The methods of rodent control used are based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. Premises used as Cowsheds or Dairies within the jurisdiction of the Local Authority:-

Number of Milk Producers ...	16
Number of Wholesale Producers ...	11
Number of Retail Purveyors..	3
Number of Farms at Which Accredited Milk is produced ...	7
Number of Dealers' Licences in Pasteur- ised Milk ...	4

Close co-operation is effected between the County Council and the Local Sanitary Authority in the granting of licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936/46.

The Divisional Veterinary Inspector also notifies the local Medical Officer of Health of any action under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Samples of Accredited Milks are taken by the County Council for examination.

(b) Ice Cream. All persons manufacturing or selling ice cream in the Borough are Registered in accordance with the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. All the premises have been inspected from time to time. Much of the ice cream on sale is pre-packed and manufactured outside the district.





- (c) Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. There are approximately 109 premises (including 10 butchers shops) in the Borough where food is prepared or handled in one form or another.

The slaughtering of food animals in this area was discontinued under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940.

A small number of pigs belonging to "self suppliers" have been slaughtered and inspected in the district.

The undermentioned foodstuffs have been found unfit for human consumption during the year:-

<u>Item.</u>	<u>Approx Wt. in lbs.</u>
Beef.....	242
Lamb.....	4½
Pigs.....	600
Bacon.....	8
Eels.....	1310
Other Fish.....	392
Lobster.....	44
Crabs.....	7
Butter.....	176¼
Margarine.....	6½
Bread.....	173 quarters
Flour.....	13
Dried Peas.....	224
Jam.....	20½
37 Tins Corned Beef.....	45
1 Tin Corned Mutton.....	6
6 Tins Pork Luncheon Meat.....	13
29 Tins Salmon.....	18½
11 Tins Pilchards.....	10½
60 Bottles Herrings.....	60
4 Tins Sardines.....	1½
31 Tins Norwegian Sild.....	3
246 Tins Evaporated Milk.....	240
9 Tins Condensed Milk.....	8
13 Tins Fruit.....	27
11 Tins Sausage.....	10
20 Tins Beans.....	18
14 Tins Peas.....	17
2 Tins Tomatoes.....	5
2 Tins Macaroni & Cheese.....	2
72 Tins Miscellaneous (Stewed Steak; M & V, etc..)...	69
Dried Egg.....	1½
11 Packets Pudding Mixture.....	5½
21 Meat Pies.....	21
Rollled Oats.....	3½



Prepared food premises, including restaurant kitchens, bakehouses and sausage making rooms and the like are inspected as often as possible.

- (d) Adulteration. The Local Authority is not the Food and Drugs Authority for this area, the County Council being responsible for this work.
- (e) Shellfish (Molluscan). The only shellfish gathered in important quantities in the district are winkles of which several hundred stones are gathered annually by hand picking on the estuarial mud flats at low water.

These shellfish are sent to Billingsgate Market. The gathering grounds are at a considerable distance from any sewage outfall and appear not to be liable to pollution.

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PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health,  
including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	1	74	195	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority...	2	1	-	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out- workers' premises)	3	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		75	195	2	



2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

Particulars	M/c Line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecut- ions were instituted.
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of Clean- liness (S.1)	4	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature(S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent- ilation(S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.5)	8	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Con- ventances(S.7)						
(a) insufficient	9	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	3	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to Outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	5	7	-	-	-

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	M/c Line No.	Section 110			Section 111		Prose- cutions
		No. of out-work- ers in August list re- quired by Sect. 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in send- ing lists to the Council	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un- wholesome premises	Notices served	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing apparel Making etc.	13	37	-	-	Nil	-	-
Feather sorting	37	1	-	-	Nil	-	-
TOTAL	71	38	-	-	Nil	-	-

